

Message Text

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61

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-02 AID-05 IGA-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

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FM AMEMBAPFY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0249

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN JOSE 2053

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, CS

SUBJECT: INTER-AMERICAN FOUNDATION (IAF) GRANTS IN COSTA RICA

1. A REPORT IN THE BOLETIN INFORMATIVO FOR THE 1ST TRIMESTER OF 1975 FROM THE INTER-AMERICAN FOUNDATION HAS CAUSED A STIR AMONG SOME RESPONSIBLE UNIVERSITY OFFICIALS. THIS BOLETIN, WHICH WAS NOT RECEIVED BY THE EMBASSY, HAS APPARENTLY BEEN CIRCULATED WIDELY WITHIN GOVERNMENT AND UNIVERSITY CIRCLES. IT WAS BROUGHT TO THE EMBASSY'S AND THE AMBASSADOR'S ATTENTION BY UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS.

2. THE TWO PROJECTS FOR COSTA RICA LISTED IN THE BOLETIN CONCERN \$308,523 (GRANT CR-006) FOR THE SCHOOL FOR PLANNING AND SOCIAL PROMOTION AT THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY AT HEREDIA AND \$83,000 (GRANT CO-007/2/) FOR ECUMENICAL PUBLICATIONS, S.R. LTDA. ALTHOUGH BOTH GRANTS HAVE PROVOKED A REACTION OF INCOMPREHENSION THAT U.S. FUNDS WOULD BE PLACED IN SUCH ENTERPRISES, THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY GRANT IS PARTICULARLY ONEROUS AS ITS DIRECTOR IS A MEMBER OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY. FRANKLY, LITTLE IS KNOWN ABOUT THE SCHOOL'S OBJECTIVES, BUT THE DEAN OF THE UNIVERSITY OF COSTA RICA'S ECONOMIC FACULTY EXPRESSED TO THE AMBASSADOR HIS INCREDULITY THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT SHOULD SUPPORT A SCHOOL HEADED BY A RENOWNED COMMUNIST INTELLECTUAL. ECUMENICAL PUBLICATIONS' CONNECTION WITH SOCIALIST EX-PRIEST JAVIER SOLIS HAS ALSO CAUSED WONDERMENT AND

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CONCERN, SOME OF IT PRIVATELY EXPRESSED TO THE EMBASSY BY

OFFICIALS IN THE CASA PRESIDENCIAL. THE VIGOROUS ANTI-U.S. FLAVOR OF THE WEEKLY NEWSPAPER HXEBLO, THE PRINCIPAL PUBLICATION OF THIS COMPANY, LEADS ONE TO QUESTION IAF'S UNDERSTANDING OF THE RECIPIENTS OF THESE GRANTS.

3. THE EMBASSY FULLY APPRECIATES THE NECESSITY OF A DECISION-MAKING PROCESS WITHIN THE IAF THAT SEEKS TO AVOID IDENTIFI-

CATION WITH THE U.S. GOVERNMENT AND THAT IS BEST SERVED BY SOME FLEXIBILITY FROM GOVERNMENT INTERPOSITIONS. HOWEVER, IT IS QUITE CLEAR HERE THAT THE IAF IS REGARDED AS A U.S. GOVERNMENT ARM AND POLITICALLY MODERATE, RESPONSIBLE COSTA RICANS CAN ONLY MARVEL AT OUR LACK OF GOOD SENSE IN UNDERTAKING THESE PROJECTS. WE EXPECT PRESS ATTENTION HERE TO ONE OR BOTH PROJECTS.
TODMAN

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Message Attributes

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